

City Center Tower Completes in Manila

Manila, Philippines – 14 December 2016



Brooklyn-based architecture and design firm Carlos Arnaiz Architects (CAZA) and the City of Manila announced the opening of the [City Center Tower](#) located, as the name suggests, in the downtown metro area. With construction completed in early December, the 27-story mixed-use building will feature three floors of commercial retail and dining space while also serving as the corporate offices for several prominent international companies.

The project's design sought to defy the average core and shell layout of standard office buildings by introducing refreshingly unexpected geometries that produce new experiences for users. By infusing a series of concentric circles extended across the horizontal axes of each floor, the tower's exterior façade marries the structured shape of a cube with the free-form organic pattern of a wave. The resulting visual impact elicits efficiency and innovation while retaining a sense of light playfulness.

"In the last fifteen years, office development in the Philippines has experienced an unthinkable explosion due to the arrival of the BPO industry," remarked Principal and Founder of CAZA Carlos Arnaiz. "As

architects, we are searching for an expression of this new socio-cultural paradigm. The City Center Tower could be one of the first projects in the Philippines that represent the changing nature of the workplace, where nature and offices interact in this 24-hour cycle – accentuating the reality of how the BPO office environment operates.”

Visitors are welcomed to the tower by an airy and illuminated double-height lobby that is circumscribed by two floors of commercial retail space, establishing the tower as a vivacious center that is both accessible and enlivened by public activity. Hovering above these retail sections are spacious elevated parking areas in alignment with a functional cooling tower, designed to accommodate a passive cooling system responsive to the tropical heat of the Philippine metropolis. On the fifth floor, atop the retail zone and parking areas, a lofted rooftop restaurant overlooks the building’s adjacent park with an expansive balcony area that features an urban beach with a wading pool, hammocks, and lounge spaces.

Above the five stories of commercial space at the ground level are the corporate offices accommodating the building’s multinational tenants. Each floor of the upper-level corporate zone is designed with a concentric circular pattern, layering together to compose the exterior’s iconic wave-like façade that distinguishes the unique tower. The circular patterning gradually forms a series of balconies and bulging metallic mullions that provide the office spaces – which are traditionally closed and inwardly focused – with a lush green overgrowth that invites employees to look outwards towards the vista and orient themselves within the metropolitan yet verdant landscape of Manila.

For more on this story, go to [E-Architect](#).